



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of WATER RESOURCES
1110 West Washington Street, Suite 310
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
602.771.8500
azwater.gov

Arizona Water Initiative Northwest Basins Planning Area Meeting Summary

Date: December 6, 2016
Time: 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Location: Building 200, Multipurpose Room (240)
Mohave Community College Neal Campus
1971 Jagerson Ave.
Kingman, Arizona 86409

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. ADWR Northwest Basins Planning Area Coordinator John Riggins opened the meeting by welcoming stakeholders and describing the structure and focus of the meeting.
 - Discussion of municipal water demand in the Northwest Basins Planning Area was the primary focus of the meeting.
- b. Mr. Riggins provided a recap of the features of the Arizona Water Initiative, including the Governor's Water Augmentation Council and the Planning Area Process.
- c. Mr. Riggins provided a recap of the last Northwest Basins Meeting on September 8, 2016.
 - Mr. Riggins discussed stakeholders' suggestions to use Community Water System (CWS) and Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) reported water use data for the municipal water demand updates.

2. Presentation: [Data Collection Plan Presentation](#)

- a. Mr. Riggins presented the data collection plan and methodology used for gathering preliminary municipal water demand data examples.
- b. The presentation included the stakeholder suggested data collection methodology recommended at the September 8th meeting by the municipal water use group.
- c. The presentation included an explanation of the types of uses considered to be municipal water uses.
 - This included explaining the estimated percentage of individuals on private wells and on system water.
- d. Mr. Riggins described the Community Water Systems (CWS) located in the Northwest Basins Planning Area and described their annual reporting of water use and people served.
 - Mr. Riggins explained the CWS reporting by showing an example of a CWS annual report.
- e. Mr. Riggins described the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) systems in the Northwest Basins Planning Area and explained its annual reporting of water pumped and people served.
 - Mr. Riggins explained the ACC reporting by showing an example of a ACC annual report.

- f. Mr. Riggins explained the third municipal data source, the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and presented its municipal groundwater withdrawal estimates from 1991 – 2014.
- g. To conclude the presentation, Mr. Riggins presented an equation that was used in the municipal data collection to calculate Gallons of Per Capita Per Day (GPCD) water usage for the Northwest Basins Planning Area.

3. Discussion: Municipal Water Demand Data Collection Plan

- a. A stakeholder asked if the City of Kingman's water use was included in the data collection. Mr. Riggins replied that the Community Water Systems data includes Kingman Municipal Water system water use.
- b. A stakeholder asked what percentage of the Northwest Basins population is estimated to be on private wells. Mr. Riggins explained that approximately 9 percent of the Planning Area was estimated to use private wells rather than water systems. Mr. Riggins explained that this estimate was derived from the Community Water Systems data collected and from US Census Bureau population estimates.
- c. A stakeholder asked how many water systems were in the Northwest Basins Planning Area and whether they had been invited to participate in the stakeholder meetings. Mr. Riggins replied that there are 19 Community Water Systems within the Northwest Basins Planning Area and that email addresses for those systems were included on the Planning Area email notification roster. Mr. Riggins explained that he was aware of several water system representatives who have come to meetings and provided both feedback and suggestions regarding the Planning Area process.
- d. A stakeholder made a comment regarding recent agriculture operations in the Hualapai Basin. Mr. Riggins explained to the stakeholder that agricultural water use will be discussed at future meetings. Mr. Riggins explained that the municipal water use for the Planning Area is significant and that it is important to have the municipal water demand discussion.
- e. A stakeholder asked how many more meetings ADWR would be having in the Northwest Basins Planning Area process. Gerry Walker, ADWR Deputy Assistant Director, explained that a goal of this Planning Area process was to work with stakeholders and update the water demand data for the Planning Area. Ms. Walker provided an overview of the Arizona Water Initiative to those in attendance that may have missed earlier meetings when the Planning Area process was explained.
- f. A stakeholder asked what basins were included in the Northwest Basins Planning Area. Mr. Riggins explained the Planning Area consisted of the Detrital Valley, Meadview, Hualapai Valley and Sacramento Valley Basins.

4. Presentation: Preliminary Municipal Water Demand

- a. Mr. Riggins explained the Community Water Systems' Gallons Per Capita Per Day (GPCD) estimates ranging from 2006 – 2015 for the Northwest Basins Planning Area. These estimates were derived from reported water usage and the estimated people served for the respective water systems in the Planning Area.
- b. Mr. Riggins explained the Arizona Corporation Commission's Gallons Per Capita Per Day (GPCD) estimates ranging from 2012– 2015 for the Northwest Basins Planning Area. These estimates were derived from reported water usage and the estimated people served for the respective water systems in the Planning Area.
- c. Mr. Riggins explained the USGS's Gallons Per Capita Per Day (GPCD) estimates ranging from 1991 – 2014 for the Northwest Basins Planning Area. These estimates were derived from estimated annual municipal groundwater withdrawals and US Census Bureau population estimates.
- d. Mr. Riggins then presented a table and graph showing the three data sources (CWS, ACC and USGS) and the corresponding GPCD estimated values. Mr. Riggins explained that the only years that all three data sources had consistent overlap were from the years 2012 to 2014.
- e. Mr. Riggins showed a table with estimated GPCD averages over different ranges starting with the most recent year that all three sources reported consistently (2014). Mr. Riggins then showed a

five-year estimated GPCD average followed by the ten-year estimated GPCD average and explained the discrepancies in the averages were due to lack of reporting over the five and ten year averages.

- A stakeholder noted that two of the GPCD total average values displayed in the table were inaccurate. Mr. Riggins and Ms. Walker noted the discrepancy and the errors were corrected and displayed correctly on slide #24 of the presentation posted to the [Northwest Basins Planning Area Webpage](#).
- f. Mr. Riggins then presented a table comparing the municipal GPCD estimates from the Cochise, West Basins, and Northwest Basins Planning Areas. Mr. Riggins explained that the greater GPCD estimate for the Northwest Basins was most likely due to the larger population of the Kingman area and greater indoor and outdoor use of the Northwest Basins Planning Area in general.
- g. Mr. Riggins then presented several slides with satellite images comparing municipal interior and exterior water usage in differing Planning Areas and explained that the satellite photos were included to illustrate the amount of outdoor water use in the Northwest Basins compared to other active Planning Areas, like the West Basins Planning Area.
 - Mr. Riggins recognized that these images only represented small portions of each Planning Area and did not constitute a total picture of the entire Planning Area.
- h. Mr. Riggins then explained to the stakeholders the next steps in the Northwest Basins Planning Area process and asked for feedback regarding the best data source option to use for updating the municipal demand estimates.

5. Discussion: Preliminary Municipal Water Demand

- a. A Stakeholder asked if commercial water reported was considered for the Community Water System data collection. Mr. Riggins explained that the only reported water usage that was excluded from this CWS data collection was identified industrial use. Mr. Riggins gave the example of power plants and mines that were specifically noted on CWS annual reports for water usage and explained that these industrial uses would then be counted during the industrial demand data collection.
- b. A stakeholder asked how the USGS gathered its municipal groundwater demand estimates. Mr. Riggins explained that the USGS provides the data to ADWR and that, to the best of his knowledge, the data is gathered by the USGS through outreach and inquiries to various water systems and providers.
- c. A question was asked if the Mohave County people per housing unit value (2.43 pphu) considered all of Mohave County or just the Planning Area. Mr. Riggins explained that the people per housing unit figure is a US Census Bureau derived value for all of Mohave County.
- d. A stakeholder suggested/asked whether ADWR should rely solely on the GPCDs from the USGS data source due to the range and consistency of values from 1991 to 2014.
- e. Another Stakeholder suggested that the group and ADWR should select the highest GPCD estimate example as the baseline GPCD to use for future projections.
- f. A stakeholder asked why ADWR is seeking to update the number.
 - Ms. Walker answered that a goal of the process is to update the data for water demand in the Planning Areas to help understand the water use in areas like the Northwest Basins where water usage is largely not reported. Ms. Walker explained that the Northwest Basins Planning Area is different from other Planning Areas because of the larger municipal population.
- g. A stakeholder commented that the average of the three most recent GPCD values (144 GPCD) is better to use than going with the other averages. The stakeholder did, however, express concern about missing data from shared wells and rural wells that don't report but use a significant amount of water.
- h. A statement was made that the municipal and industrial water demand values for the Northwest Basins Planning Area were insignificant compared to recent agriculture use in the Planning Area.
- i. Multiple stakeholder comments were made regarding focusing the Planning Area Process and meeting discussions on recent agricultural use in the region and discussing what can be done to

stop or slow those uses. Several people asked that the agricultural water use sector be the topic of our next meetings in the Northwest Basins Planning Areas.

6. Presentation: [Arizona's Recharge Program](#)

- a. ADWR Hydrologist, Tracey Carpenter provided a presentation overview of the Arizona Underground Storage, Savings, and Replenishment Program (also referred to as the Recharge Program).
- b. Ms. Carpenter explained that the Recharge Program allows the adding of renewable water supplies to aquifers (such as underground storage facilities (USFs) for future use).
- c. Ms. Carpenter explained that renewable water sources include effluent, surface water and Central Arizona Project (CAP) water supplies.
- d. Ms. Carpenter explained that the Recharge Program provides an accounting system for recharged and recovered water.
- e. Ms. Carpenter explained the different types of recharge permits: Recharge Facilities Permits; Water Storage Permits; and Recovery Permits.
- f. Ms. Carpenter presented examples of USFs in Arizona and explained the different types of recharge wells used in connection with USFs.
- g. A stakeholder asked who pays for such programs. Ms. Carpenter explained that the owner of the facility is responsible for payment and typically the owner of these facilities are municipalities.
- h. A stakeholder commented that the Truxton Wash would be a prime candidate for recharging the aquifer. Ms. Carpenter explained that efforts to store water from Truxton Wash might trigger certain laws related to surface water.
- i. Ms. Walker noted that efforts to store surface water may be subject to claims of surface water rights holders.

7. General Comment

- a. Mr. Riggins asked if there were any questions for general comment.
- b. Several stakeholders sought discussion of possible solutions to increased agricultural water use in the Northwest Basins.
- c. Ms. Walker explained that at the next meeting ADWR can present the basics of the regulatory tools available.
- d. A comment was made to clarify the criteria for designating an Irrigation Non-Expansion Area or Active Management Area, considering the recent Mohave County Board of Supervisor's INA request for the Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin.
- e. ADWR legal counsel Jennifer Heim explained [ADWR's response](#) to Mohave County's request (see link for ADWR Response).
- f. A stakeholder asked what ADWR views as "enough evidence for an INA". Ms. Heim explained that in order to designate an INA, ADWR must find that there is insufficient groundwater to provide a reasonably safe supply for irrigation of the cultivated lands in the area. Ms. Heim explained that, in analyzing whether there is a reasonably safe supply for irrigation, ADWR is required by statute to consider only current rates of withdrawal and not future projected changes to rates of withdrawal.

8. Closing Remarks

- a. Mr. Riggins thanked those in attendance for their participation and feedback. Stakeholder comments and questions will be organized and individuals will be notified by email when the next meeting is scheduled.
- b. Mr. Riggins thanked everyone for their participation and stated that if anyone had any additional information, suggestions, or questions that they can be directed to John Riggins at jrriggins@azwater.gov or (602)771-4782.

***Meeting Attendance: 40**